

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3371

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

S E C R E T MONROVIA 0540

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: GOL URGES USG ACTION ON RHODESIAN TALK SITUATION

REF: MONROVIA 539

1. IN BREAKFAST MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT TOLBERT, FONMIN DENNIS AND MYSELF TODAY, JAN 22, PRESIDENT EXPRESSED EXTREME CONCERN OVER DECISION OF FRONT LINE STATES TO SUPPORT SO-CALLED PATRIOTIC FRONT. HE CHARACTERIZED DECISION AS BEING DIVISIVE FOR ZIMBABWE, FOR AFRICA AND "POTENTIALLY THE GREAT POWERS." HE SAID FRONT LINE STATES' DECISION WENT COUNTER TO OAU CHARTER AND WOULD SERVE AS DANGEROUS PRECEDENT OF INTERVENTION IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES. HE CITED AS A CONCRETE EXAMPLE SOUTH AFRICA, AFTER MAJORITY RULE COMES TO RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA.

2. TOLBERT MADE SAME POINTS MENTIONED IN SITHOLE CONVERSATION (REFTEL), STRESSING THAT HE WAS CERTAIN MANY OTHER AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE FELT EQUALLY CONCERNED OVER DECISION. HE SAID THIS WAS CASE WITH MOBUTO WITH WHOM HE DISCUSSED ISSUE DURING THEIR MEETING LAST WEEK.

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3. TOLBERT SAID ISSUE IS BECOMING EVEN MORE URGENT BECAUSE HE ANTICIPATES FRONT LINE STATES WILL SEEK SUPPORT FOR PATRIOTIC FRONT WHEN OAU 21-STATE LIBERATION COMMITTEE MEETS IN LUSAKA ON 28/29 JAN. (LIBERIA IS MEMBER OF LIBERATION COMMITTEE AND PLANS ATTENDING.)

4. TOLBERT FURTHER CHARACTERIZED FRONT LINE DECISION AS BEING REPETITION OF MISTAKE MADE IN ANGOLA, SAYING THIS PLAYS INTO HANDS OF SOVIETS AND CUBANS WHO SUPPORT NKOMO AND STRENGTHENS IVAN SMITH'S INTRANSIGENCE AS HE SEES DIVISION AMONG NATIONALIST FORCES.

5. TOLBERT REPEATED APPRECIATION FOR USG INITIATIVES IN BRINGING SMITH TO GENEVA AND ASKED WHAT STEPS COULD NOW BE TAKEN TO COUNTER ADVERSE DEVELOPMENT OF PATRIOTIC FRONT RECOGNITION. HE HAD NO PROPOSAL TO MAKE TO USG BUT HOPED THAT WE MIGHT DEVISE ACTION PROGRAM QUICKLY ENOUGH TO MEET PROBLEM. HE STRESSED THE TIME FACTOR, SAYING THAT EACH DAY LOST REINFORCES INTERNAL DIVISIONS WITHIN RHODESIA.

6. TOLBERT MENTIONED THE CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY WHICH SITHOLE HAD DESCRIBED IN REFTTEL AND FELT IT DESERVED SUPPORT WITHIN AFRICA AND THE WEST.

7. I DESCRIBED OUR TRADITIONAL NEUTRALITY ON THE VARIOUS NATIONALIST MOVEMENTS WITHIN RHODESIA, SAYING THAT THE USG BELIEVES THESE ARE DECISIONS WHICH MUST BE TAKEN BY RHODESIANS THEMSELVES. I PROMISED, HOWEVER, TO CONVEY PRESIDENT'S VIEWS TO WASHINGTON.

CARTER

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